

24. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the computer system has a pointing device including the first auxiliary control and the first auxiliary control is a button.

REMARKS

The office action of December 18, 2002 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-31 remain pending.

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 7-19 and 25-31 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims.

Also, applicants note that initialed copies of the PTO form 1449 for the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 13, 2001, May 24, 2002 and October 4, 2002 were not returned to the undersigned with the office action. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return initialed copies of the same with the next communication. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if copies of the references or PTO forms 1449 are needed.

Applicants have amended the claims to correct minor informalities and to otherwise improve the clarity of the invention.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,323,846 B1 to Westerman et al. ("Westerman"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The action alleges that Westerman describes all the features of claims 1-6. As amended independent claim 1 calls for, among other features, detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains an inactive state; and generating feedback responsive to the step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the first auxiliary control, the functionality of the first auxiliary control and associated feedback being dependent upon which of a plurality of applications is active. Notably, Westerman neither teaches nor suggests the

functionality of the first auxiliary control and associated feedback being dependent upon which one of a plurality of applications is active.

Claims 21-24 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 46 and 54 of co-pending application no. 09/543,723. While not acquiescing in this rejection, applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection. In addition, Applicants are also including in the same Terminal Disclaimer commonly assigned, copending application serial no. 09/804,496 to foreclose the potential of a provisional double patenting rejection over that application. By filing the Terminal Disclaimer, applicants are not acquiescing or admitting that any claims of the instant application are obvious in view of claims pending in application serial no. 09/804,496.

CONCLUSION

A Fee Transmittal is included for the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d). It is believed that no additional fees are required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

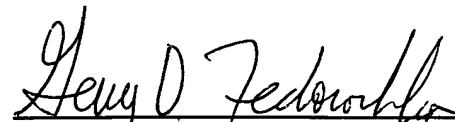
All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: February 20, 2003

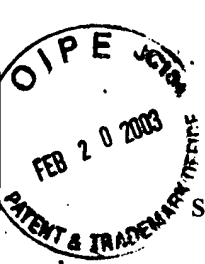
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) In a computer system ~~having an input device including~~ an auxiliary control, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains an inactive state; and

generating feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the first auxiliary control, the functionality of the first auxiliary control and associated feedback being dependent upon which one of a plurality of applications is active.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the computer system has the input device is a game controller including the first auxiliary control.

9. (Amended) In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains an inactive state; and

generating feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the auxiliary control, said generating further including displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting~~The method according to claim 7,~~ wherein the ~~first~~ display widget identifies a text macro associated with the first auxiliary control.

18. (Amended) In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains an inactive state;

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generating feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the first auxiliary control;

detecting a second physical presence proximate to or contacting a second auxiliary control different from the first auxiliary control;

generating other feedback responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence. ~~The method according to claim 16, wherein the other feedback indicat~~inges functionality associated with the combination of the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control correspond to separate controls on ~~the input device, the device being~~ a keyboard input device.

20. (Amended) In a computer system ~~having an input device including~~ an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control; and
displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing a tool tip associated with the first auxiliary control.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the computer system has input device is a keyboard including the first auxiliary control.

24. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the computer system has input device is a pointing device including the first auxiliary control and the first auxiliary control is a button.